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THE

# RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

No. CLXXVII. SEPTEMBER, 1863. Vol. XV.

RAGGED SCHOOL
PRECEPT.
Deliver the poor and needy; rid them out of the hand of the wicked. Psalm lxxxii. 4.
PROMISE
And thou shalt be blessed for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. Luke xiv. 4.

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

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* * All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 1, Exeter Hall, London.
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## CONTENTS.


| | Page |
|---|---|
| *Papers, Original and Selected—* | |
| The Ragged School Children's Country Excursion | 193 |
| Joyful Mothers | 195 |
| Prayer and Effort; or, a Place in God's World for every Man | 197 |
| The Societies' School Agent in the North and East of London | 202 |
| Stephen the Yeoman Ragged School | 209 |
| "The Fatherless Findeth Mercy" | 213 |
| *The Teachers' Column—* | |
| A Commentary for Ragged School Teachers | 214 |
| *Poetry—* | |
| A Remonstrance | 215 |
| *Notices of Meeting—* | |
| Lamb and Flag, Clerkenwell | 215 |


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 70 Bibles from one who prizes the word of God; a parcel of clothing from E. Trimmer, Esq.; a parcel of periodicals, &c., from Hon. Miss Monson; and a bag of used envelopes from a friend in the country.

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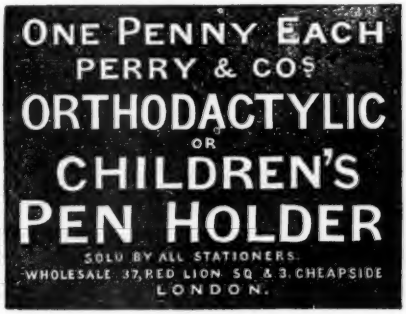


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## OUT OF TOWN.

The time of year has again arrived when all who can will forsake house and home in search of renewed health and spirits by spending a few weeks amidst the beauties of Nature, especially as they abound in our own beloved land and on the Continent of Europe, and to all such we say, God speed you with health and happiness. But it must be borne in mind that there are many to whom this season is a time of peculiar hardship, for the simple reason that our works of benevolence have often to be restricted because funds fall off at this time. It was the case last year with this Institution, when for nearly two months one of the Homes had to be kept nearly empty for this one reason, and many more poor creatures refused help. Surely this cannot be generally known, for the means of prevention are at hand. The land abounds in wealth, which is God's gift, and thousands long for opportunities of doing good; and, to arrive at a practical conclusion, all that is needed in temporals is a few bank notes, cheques, Post-office orders, &c., to be remitted before ladies and gentlemen quit their homes in search of health and pleasure. 1,050 friendless and fallen young women have been admitted since September, 1857.

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# Papers, Original and Selected.

## THE RAGGED SCHOOL CHILDREN'S COUNTRY EXCURSION.

DID you ever particularly regard a tree, a shrub, or a flower? This may appear a strange question, and yet again will I repeat it: Did you ever *particularly* regard a tree, a shrub, or a flower?

That you have *seen* these things, and frequently stopped to admire them, I do not question; but that is not regarding them in the sense that I mean. Did you ever look on them with an eye sparkling with wonder and delight; with a keen, unutterable sense of what is beautiful, united with a high and holy reverence for the Almighty, whose wonder-working hand has so profusely adorned the dwelling place of sinful man with trees, and shrubs, and flowers? If you have not done this, you know not the enjoyment that the works of creation are capable of affording.

Not an hour has elapsed since my return from a morning walk, which led me along a green retired lane, occasionally branching out into a wider space of broken ground, for the most part covered with furze-bushes. The trees, the shrubs, and the flowers, seen while yet the dew of heaven was upon them, while the morning breeze was blowing, and the glorious sun lit up the skies, gave a thrill of rapture to my heart. Let me describe the scene. It may be that the sketch may impart a higher tone to your thoughts when next you walk abroad and gaze around on the works of creation.

I had been closely pent up for weeks and months in the neighbourhood of a crowded city, without having once wandered from it so far as I then was. The country and the country air were novelties, and I gratefully enjoyed the one and the other. This makes me wish to plead that the Excursion Fund for our Ragged Schools may be helped by every reader, that all the children may also enjoy a country trip, which I know to be so delightful. But to proceed. There was a keen sense of the fair and beautiful in nature, and a warm rush of grateful emotion that made my uplifted eyes swim again. I could not look on earth or heaven

without being struck with the profusion, the almost prodigality of goodness, manifested by the Father of mercies. The earth was overhung with an azure canopy and clouds of dazzling white, edged with glittering gold. In my walk mine eye had glanced around on a distant prospect of hills and plains, and woods and water, that gave back the sunbeam; while around me stood, at different distances, the venerable oak, the towering elm, the romantic fir. But I had now entered the shady lane, where, in my pathway, and almost beneath my feet, glowed the yellow-blossomed furze-bushes, absolutely dazzling me with their yellow glories. My very delight became painful to me through its excess. Nor can I hope to impart a sense of my emotions to one altogether a stranger to such feelings. Every object appeared as a picture. Not executed by the puny pencil of a mortal being, but painted by the almighty hand of the Eternal.

There I stood, bending over a furze-bush, as if I had never gazed on one before. Through its interstices might be seen the brown and faded parts of the shrub, with here and there a lady-bird, with its hard red wings, dotted with black, crawling among them; but on the upper part, its myriads of fresh green thorns were studded with almost an equal number of pure and spotless flowers, spangled with dew-drops. It seemed as if the blooming beaming, and almost blazing bush had been called into existence and clothed with beauty to give me pleasure! It was regarded by me as a gift from the Father of mercies, and I stood over it with a heart beating with thankfulness.

A little farther on the long straggling branches of the blackberry bramble hung down from the high hedge. The sight was a goodly one—a perfect picture. The fresh green leaves, mingled with others somewhat sere, the red-coloured stems, with their white-pointed thorns—short, hooked, and strong; the fruit, partly unripe, green, and red, and partly ripe, rich, juicy, and black as ebony, waiting to be gathered. The melons and pines of the banqueting board could not have surpassed, in my estimation, the bounteous feast that was thus spread before me.

The next object was a hawthorn-bush, entangled in whose long, spiky thorns grew a wild rose, rich with scarlet hips. The parsley-shaped leaves of the bush, the ten thousand red, bright berries that adorned it, together with the wild rose, was another picture glorious to gaze on. Close to the hawthorn-bush sprung up a wild young plum-tree, gorgeous with a profusion of colours, for the sharp night

air and the bleaching winds had changed the verdure of its leaves, so that faded, green, yellow, ash-colour, white, red, and deepest purple, vied with each other. Below the plum-tree, and close against the bank on which the hedge grew, stood a thistle, four feet high. It was a glorious plant: such a one that, if thistles were not common, would be transported to the gay parterre, tended with care, and exhibited with pride; yet there it was, with its pointed leaves and purple flowers, now blooming unnoticed, save by my admiring eyes. At the very foot of the thistle grew luxuriantly the romantic-looking fern-root: divide it as you may, to the very last its fragments bear a resemblance to the whole plant. It gave a character to the spot, for, in my estimation, it is one of the most elegant plants that grow. A spider had woven his filmy web across it, thus imparting to it an additional charm. I was absolutely bewildered with the amazing freshness and beauty of every object around me. I cast a hurried glance on the furze bush, the bramble, the hawthorn, and the wild rose; the plum-tree, the thistle, and the fern: I looked up to the snowy clouds in the blue sky, and the language of my heart and soul was, "O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise" (Psa. li. 15). And will not those for whom I plead raise thankful hearts to God when they see the beauties of nature, and to you, dear friends, who help them to have this treat? And if done from love to our Saviour, he will say to you, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

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## JOYFUL MOTHERS.

**"Acknowledgment of unmerited mercies."**

**THUS is entered one of the subscriptions to the Ragged School Union in the last Report. How suggestive is the expression of that vast variety of blessings descending from the Giver of all good—those which daily surround us, as the light of day and the dew from heaven; or those sudden, unexpected mercies, which startle even the thoughtless into gratitude!**

**The last mail from India brought tidings of the preservation of members of my own family from sudden death, which impress the subject more deeply on my mind. A young mother was seated in her dwelling, with her first-born child, an infant of about eighteen months old, playing with his toys at her feet. Suddenly, without apparent cause, the little one left his play, and trotted off to another part of the room. The next instant a flash of lightning struck the house. The principal force of the electric fluid seems to have**

fallen on another apartment; but some came down the fire-place by which the lady was seated, chipped off a piece of the marble chimney-piece, and to a certain degree both numbed and stunned the young mother, so that she heard not the tremendous peal which followed close on the flash. The dog, which had lain on a rug at her feet, limped on three legs for the rest of the day. Had the little boy remained in his former place, what stunned the mother might have killed the young child. To the lady it appeared that the little one had been called by his heavenly Father away from the perilous spot, and that thus he had been preserved from perishing before her eyes. In thankfulness for her boy's deliverance from danger, the mother seemed almost forgetful of her own.

A few days after hearing of this preservation, I received a letter from another thankful young mother, rejoicing over the birth of a first-born son. Her soul was brimming over with joy. "My heart is very full of gratitude," she wrote, "to the glorious Supreme Giver, who doeth all things well." "No one can tell the gush of emotion when such a tie is given. I find every hour reveals deeper roots of intense affection. It is so delicious to have the tender head pillowed on one's arm!"

As I read, I think how many joyful mothers are there now in England. This earth is not all a "vale of tears." Many are walking in the sunshine of pure and innocent delight. It is to such that I now especially address myself—to the *joyful mothers* who may chance to glance over these pages.

Has God lately bestowed on you the precious gift of a little one to care for and love? Perhaps now in the fairy cot beside you lies folded a bud of beauty. The movement of the soft limbs, the touch of the tiny fingers, the feeble sounds which to a mother's ear are music, thrill your soul with strange joy. Nay, you gaze with pleasure even at the pieces of dress associated with your darling; there is to you a nameless charm in the embroidered robe, the silken hood, the tiny, delicate shoes! Oh, think of those over whose births there have been no rejoicings; the infants who have first seen the light in wretched attic or noisome cellar, regarded, perhaps, as unwelcome encumbrances, even by the mothers who gave them birth! From the over-flowing cup of your joy, let some drops fall on the parched and thirsty. Let the Christian mother give as a free-will offering what was obligatory on the Jewish. Bring "an acknowledgment of unmerited mercies" to Him who hath said, "Feed my lambs," and let the children of poverty be blessed by the gift from a *joyful mother*.

Or perhaps you have lately welcomed home a beloved child after absence, safe from the perils of the sea, from "lightning, tempest, and sudden death." Is not the language of your soul, "What shall I render to my God for all His gifts to me?" Think, then, of the desolate and homeless, tossed on the rough sea of life, without the only compass by which the shore of heaven can be reached. Bring "an acknowledgment of unmerited mercies" in lowly gratitude to God, and let the children of ignorance be blessed by the gift from a *joyful mother*.

Or perhaps health has been restored to your home after an anxious period of sickness. You have known what it is to shut out the daylight from the chamber of suffering, and to watch through the sleepless night the feverish tossings of a child. You have known what it is to listen with sickening

anxiety for the doctor's knock, and then to hang in breathless suspense on his words. You have prayed fervently, with tears, and the Almighty has granted your prayer. Your fears are over, your grief has passed, and joyfully you exclaim, "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction.*" Oh, think then of the ragged children who wander uncared for in the streets, with the leprosy of sin on their souls! Who will guide them to the Good Physician, who will show them the *Fountain for uncleanness?* Bring "an acknowledgment of unmerited mercies" to Him who hath healed thy beloved: let the children of misery be blessed by a tribute from a *joyful mother.*

There is special delight in giving when the gift takes the form of a thank-offering. It was after her brother had been restored to her that Mary poured her treasure of ointment over the feet of her Lord. Joy opens deep fountains of feeling as well as sorrow.

Christian sisters, whom God hath blessed, let not this appeal be made in vain. Ye who have received freely, give freely; *not grudgingly, nor of necessity;* not slowly, coldly, sparingly; but, with the warmth and gladness of grateful love, seek to make others share your mercies. Let the children of poverty, ignorance, and misery, be blessed by the gifts from *joyful mothers.*

A. L. O. E.

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## PRAYER AND EFFORT;

OR,

## A PLACE IN GOD'S WORLD FOR EVERY MAN.

(*Continued from page* 109.)

WHO is he lying curled up there at the root of that tree, reminding the spectator of the nursery stories of the hairy man of the woods? He is snorting, starting, and grunting in his sleep, as if in much trouble. There is long grass, too, peeping from between the fingers of his clenched fist, as if torn from the soil in an agony; dew-gems on the stripes of his Guernsey, his clothes torn and soiled, bespeaking a rough and weary pilgrimage; the worn iron heel and toe pieces, and the broken boot holes glittering in the morning sun, suggesting hard labour and flinty roads; the shaggy locks and bristling beard, as if dried in an oven, reminding of physical force and the will to exert it in him who owns them. Who is he? Reader, this is Jim of the "Red Lion," the Crusher of Middle Lane. He is returning from wandering to and fro on the face of his native land to Bramble Cottage and the unholy haunts of the old tavern. Whence comes he? Were he to awake and answer the question, he would reply, "From the North, after having proved to one man in particular, and to all men in general, that he was game to the heel, and kept his word to the letter." Were we to answer for him we would respond, He returns from a deed of blood, an act of revenge; from the perpetration of an awful sin.

The reader will not have forgot how the brutal fray between the Crusher and the "Navvy" was terminated by the interposition of his mother and sister; how, in an evil hour, he was bullied by his antagonist into a vow of revenge, and how he resolved that nothing but death would prevent its due performance. Without a flourish of trumpets, indeed, very quietly, shortly thereafter he disappeared from the village, and was neither seen nor heard of for months. Countless inquiries were made for him among the Sunday parties at the "Red Lion:" to these queries, the replies were as numerous as they were various. At one time he was drowned, at another he was enlisted, and again, by way of change, he was far away at sea in one of her Majesty's ships. The few who were in the secret occasionally would drop a hint that business called him away, and that in due time he would turn up. Business did call him away; his black vow, like an evil spirit, haunted him night and day; it possessed him like a devil, and under its awful spell he became a devil incarnate for a season.

Happy are we that our narrative permits us to drop a veil over the ghastly details of the performance of his vow. However, for the sake of connection, permit us to state that he fully performed his oath, and with awful exactness. For many a weary week, like a blood-hound, did he toil and travel from line to line, and bridge to bridge, over all the new railway lines in the North of England, making quest for his victim. At last they met, and the vow was performed on a moor, amid hundreds of spectators. Before he again mingled among men, the unfortunate Navvy, through many a dreary day and sleepless night in the sick chamber, had time allowed him to estimate the consequences and taste the bitter fruit of a revel at the "Lion:" whatever was his conclusion drawn from the whole matter, that of every bone in his body was, "that the way of the transgressor is hard."

At the moment of "casting up" we behold Jim at the root of a tree, wrapt in troubled slumber, his weary frame clad in rags and dirt, and his soul bowed in remorse: the work of the law written upon his heart is exciting tumult among his thoughts; conscience, with her trumpet voice, is disturbing the torpor of his soul, and with her sting is piercing the tenderest part of his heart. From such an one, poor, frail man has to turn away in despair, and leave him to his fate. That poor wretch to be really benefited must not be patched and mended, he must be regenerated. To be truly safe, he must be washed in the blood of atonement, clad in the spotless robe of the Redeemer's righteousness. Ay, but how are they to be brought into contact—that wandering sheep and the Good Shepherd? No two objects could be further apart now, and as likely to meet as the four points of the compass. But, reader, which is the darkest hour of all the twenty-four? That which precedes the dawn. Armed with the authority of the High Priest, followed by the officers of justice with unlimited power in himself, the blood of the martyred Stephen yet wet on his skirts, as he went blustering down the road to Damascus, how wide the gulf between Paul and Jesus! But it was only in appearance: the blessed Saviour arrests him while cursing his very name; the still small voice of mercy almost mingling, so close at hand was it, with that of threatening and blood. So was it with poor Jim. Yes, even under the tree, the Spirit of God was there at work within his guilty bosom; and hastening along in the very trail of this miserable man, was the gentle Shep-

herd, with all his engaging charms: the pierced hand is almost descending on his shoulder. Soon "Be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee," will burst upon his ear, and he shall be free. But his journey from the tree on the moor to the tree on Calvary will be best told in his own words.

What immediately precedes and follows were taken from the Crusher's own lips in a stroll with the writer and old Father Firm one fine evening in autumn. This will easily account to the reader for the minuteness and quaintness of this chapter. The account was given after his conversion. But as his passage from death unto life will form the bulk of the next chapter, the writer wishes not in the least degree to anticipate any part of it, but would rather observe the order of time and Providence. The reader using for his guidance the above information, the writer will proceed in his narrative.

"Father and lover of our souls!
Though darkly round thine anger rolls,
Thy sunshine smiles beneath the gloom.
Thou seek'st to warn us, not confound;
Thy showers would pierce the hardened ground,
And win it to give out its brightness and perfume."

One beautiful evening in the early part of autumn, the writer, with Father Firm, in top coat and muffler, leaning on his arm, stepped down the lane near his house for a stroll. The old saint, full of grace, hale in body, and high in spirits, was talkative, dropping big thoughts concerning God and man at every turn. He was in one of his tenderest moods: the playfulness of the boy, the softness of the girl, and the sturdiness of the veteran saint, seemed to have met that evening in the old man's breast, and to have kissed and embraced each other there, under an atmosphere of deepest piety, with now and then flashes of innocent yet genuine humour darting through it. He seemed a sturdy, a racy volume, compiled to illustrate the power of free grace over human nature. How particularly inviting was the evening, too. The reaper had just left the fields; his laugh, joke, and song, had left with him. Nothing of man remained but his work—long lines of sheaves. Here and there a hare and rabbit darted across the fields, sadly annoyed at the nakedness of the land; the little bird was retiring to rest, its song indicating repose, for it seemed to languish and fade away into silence as does the little boy's evening hymn after a long day's play; leaves lately fallen from the trees, strewed the road, and kept up a hissing noise as the evening breeze flew over them, reminding one of the sound of the sea, softened by distance; and the sun rested against a wall of clouds, like a shield fresh from the arm of some weary warrior. We had just passed the church, and got fairly among the fields, when old Thomas, turning his face to the west, broke silence by saying,—

"Well my son, do you enjoy your evening stroll; does the scene around you gladden or sadden you?"

The writer replied he was anything but sad. The beauty of the evening, the fields covered with the spoils of the harvest, securing bread to the eater, seed to the sower, and food for man and beast, formed anything but a sad sight; but besides, there was a kind of undefinable joy felt in observing such

a scene. All around lay results, the grand total of many labours on the part of many agents. A harvest field was the focus, the centre, the point of confluence of innumerable streams of influence, all ending in success: the sunlight and summer heat, showers and dews, winds and rains, birds and beasts, combine their influence with that of man to bring about one result, and that result lay before us in the shape of a harvest field; add to this one other fact, and that the most important of all, the wisdom that regulated the efforts as to time, place, and manner of these various agents, and the idea of a harvest field is complete. All was guided, moderated, and applied by the hand that was nailed to the tree. "Tell us, father, where that man is to be found who could behold such a scene and be sad?"

"True, boy, a gracious and philosophic answer to my question, and rather an uncommon way of looking at a harvest field. How differently does the scene strike me. You know I'm fond of picture-making, and you sometimes say my pictures instruct you. My portfolio will soon be full; the hand of the sketcher will soon be stiff, and the artist will soon, in the corner of some churchyard, like one of these sheaves, be left to dry, till the angels of God come and bear him home on their shining wain to Christ's granary. Well, for my picture, my son. As I looked across the fields covered with sheaves, standing in the last rays of departing light, I could not help comparing the fading day to a dying saint. Up in the west there, it lies on its death-bed in perfect calmness; no noise, no bustle, no surprise; its feet are gathered up; dignity and glory all around, and little patches of cloud glide about the scene in reverent silence, just like the ministering members of a family in a father's sick chamber; and the sun imparts to the face of the dying day that chastened light which almost always appears in the countenance of the departing saint when, with his back for ever turned to the world, he catches the first glimpse of Christ in his glory, and when the songs of saints and angels round the throne first burst on his ear. Ay, the dying day, too, can look down on its work—the fields covered with sheaves; and, like the blood-washed labourer in the vineyard of Jesus, slip peacefully through the everlasting doors to receive the promised penny from the hand of the Lord of the harvest. O my Father and my God, grant that the scene we now behold may be the emblem of our last hour! May the face of Jesus spread a glory on ours! May the music of heaven cause our hearts to dance through the everlasting doors, as David did before the ark of the Lord; and may our last lingering look behind be met by our little fields covered with sheaves of souls! Oh, grant us this, in honour of, and for the sake of Jesus! Amen."

After a pause, and after his exulting spirit had become calm, he turned round his face and eyes—shining and wrapt in a heavenly smile—upon me, and said:—

"They that are near home, my son, often are home sick, and amuse their friends with home scenes. This is another of old Thomas's dreams of fatherland; it may be the last you'll ever get from his lips. My boy, remember your life on earth is like a ring without its gems, an eye without its lustre, a harp without its strings, if all its energy is not drawn from Jesus and the scenery of the Holy Land beyond Jordan."

The writer was just about to make a remark, when old Thomas stopped him by exclaiming, "Well, here comes the Crusher; the Lord has work on

hand to-night; let's draw him into talk. Let this be another journey to Emmaus. May our hearts burn together!

Scarcely had he finished the sentence before Jim was at our side, and wished us good evening.

"Well, my son, we have just turned out for a little fresh air," remarked Thomas; "'tis so sweet to muse beside a newly-reaped field with a friend."

"That it is when you get along side of a real 'un; but a fail-me-never mate nowadays is as precious as a Jew's eye—eh?"

"True, Jim," replied Thomas; "but such are to be found if you are on the look-out, otherwise our life would be like a dance without the music—a very quiet affair, and often out of step—eh?"

"True, master," retorted Jim, "life is a dance, and a right queer dance too! Some have to foot it without music; others go it to any spring that's played; and one that I know has gone pretty far in his dance, keeping time to the rough music, every tune of which was a regular snapper, filling heels and hands with a kind of devil's fire, making you bump the ceiling with your nut every fling, and upset everything that comes in your way, and when you stop a trice you don't know which end is uppermost: life is a dance!"

"Jim, will you humour an old man by comparing some steps in your dance with a few in his?" asked Thomas.

"Sir," said the Crusher, "you have had a teacher, and my dance compared with yours would be like comparing a garden kept by a first-class gardener, and one in which weeds, tatars, roses, and cabbages have all been allowed to grow together. Your life's like a dance in the opera, with all the bad steps taken out; mine is like the jig of some of them little, dirty, hairy coves that were over here from Africa some time ago.

"True, Jim," replied Thomas, "I have had some helps that you have not had, but in my life there have been some cantrips as wild as some of your own. And, sir—Jesus is my witness—I am one of the greatest sinners ever saved from hell."

This was uttered with so much dignity, so much feeling, and yet so simply, that the Crusher turned round and stared at him. We all three moved on in silence for a few moments, till at last Jim broke silence by saying,—

"Did ever your own hands do anything that, when it came into your memory, made your ears crack, and your heart and liver kick your ribs—eh?"

"Jim, you don't know old Thomas yet! But God knows him. And were he to let slip down between us that leaf in his book where my life is written, and you pick it up and read it, not only would your ears crack, and all your inwards bound against your ribs, but you would be so horror-struck at me, and amazed at his kindness, that your breath would depart from you and never return!"

Old Thomas uttered his last remarks in tones shrill with excitement, and with tears streaming down his cheeks. Poor Jim felt confused, and seemed like the wedding guest in the "Ancient Mariner," held fast by old Thomas's glittering eye.

"I say, sir," responded Jim, "were it not for your wet cheeks I would think you were taking your 'nap' off me. You know very well I'm the

biggest scamp in all the country for miles round—nay, in all England—in the world; there's no good you putting your score agin mine, one scratch in mine would cover the lot o' yours."

"Jim," said old Father Firm, in his firmest mood, "remember the difference between thirty and seventy years, every hour of which is spotted, like the hide of the leopard, with iniquity."

Jim, with rising energy, replied, "Why, sir, the very last big go in my jig would cover with spots so many, that you could scarcely put a needle's point between them; as many hides as would reach from here to the moon and back again, and every spot as black as the old gentleman's own coat."

"Well, Jim, just let me hear from your own lips this last 'big go in your jig,'" asked Thomas.

"That I never shall, sir," he replied; "but if you can hear it, I'll tell you some things I suffered after it." Here the Crusher's big frame trembled all over, and beads of sweat stood on his brow, and the muscles of his chin made his beard go as if pulled by a string. The old saint grasped me firmly by the arm, and asked Jim to proceed, which he did as follows.

*(To be continued.)*

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## THE SOCIETIES' SCHOOL AGENT IN THE NORTH AND EAST OF LONDON.

THE Northern and Eastern Ragged Schools have been placed under the visitation of Mr. Curtis. From his second annual Report it has been considered desirable by the Committee of the Ragged School Union to make the following extracts, as indicating the nature of his labours and the condition of the schools.

### NEW OPERATIONS AND EXTENSIONS.

Institutions which were in existence, but during the past year have extended their operations, are as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Day School—Boys | 1 |
| " Girls | 1 |
| " Infants | 1 |
| " Mixed | 2 |
| Evening School—Boys | 1 |
| Industrial Classes | 2 |
| Mothers' Meetings | 2 |
| Parents' Meeting | 1 |
| Band of Hope | 1 |
| Drum and Fife Band | 3 |
| Separate efforts in the same building amalgamated under one Committee | 1 |
| Removals | 4 |
| Schools on the point of closing, but prevented by extra effort | 2 |
| New Buildings | 4 |
| New Institution | 1 |

One Ragged School made the experiment of payment, under good auspices, but failed; reopened as a free school, is now doing well.

## SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

In the North and East there are 75 institutions having Sunday Schools: 41 of them meet in the morning, 57 in the afternoon, and 43 in the evening. Attendance: morning, about 2,400; afternoon, 7,000; evening, 6,000. Number of teachers, between 1,400 and 1,500; average attendance, not more than 900.

From careful inquiries instituted by me my impression is, that the attendance of the Day School children has been more regular at the Sabbath Schools. Some children are prevented from attending by their parents. For instance, on a Sabbath afternoon I saw a number of children in the streets belonging to one of our Ragged Schools, and ascertained from them that they attended nowhere. This circumstance was mentioned to their teacher early in the following week. Her reply was, that they had been repeatedly urged to attend, and the parents remonstrated with, but all to no purpose; the parents being not only irreligious, but hostile to religion: the danger, therefore, was, that if more were said on the matter the children would be withdrawn. On that account it was considered much better not to press the matter, as the children were under religious influence at least for five days.

The reason why more schools are not held in the evening is either because the rooms are used for worship, or from the difficulty of procuring teachers. Could teachers be provided there is no doubt but that the numbers of scholars on Sunday evening might be doubled.

I mention the following circumstance to show the straits to which superintendents are sometimes reduced. In the North of London, on one Sunday evening, I found in one of the schools several teachers but no scholars. The school was closed because the uproar had been so great on the previous Sabbath evening. This arose from want of teachers in sufficient numbers to grapple with and hold in check the mob of disorderly boys who usually assemble there. Fears were expressed, that unless the staff of teachers could be increased, the school must close. At my suggestion the circumstance was stated at an auxiliary meeting of the Sunday School Union. Interest was thereby excited in its behalf. Additional teachers were obtained, the school reopened, and has continued in operation ever since.

The success of our Sunday Schools, like other institutions, depends largely on the zeal of its officers. To some men God has given a large portion of Divine fire. They blaze, and no one with the slightest predisposition can come within the circle of their influence without being made to glow with their contagious fire. Hence some few superintendents scarcely ever complain of want of teachers. They rear them by the establishment and loving oversight of Bible Classes; by repeated meetings for prayer on the Sabbath and during the week; by friendly meetings with them at their homes. They thus unite them to the school and the church by the cords of love and the bands of a man.

These elder Bible Classes should be sedulously cultivated, and looked upon

as the great source of supply for teachers. Some few schools number their 40 or 50 lads, who are held from the world and kept within the precincts of the sanctuary by means of these classes.

## DAY SCHOOLS.

In the North and East of London there are 79 school buildings. In these are held 15 boys, 13 girls, and 61 mixed and juvenile schools. About 30 of the mixed and juvenile have separate accommodation for the infants, either under the charge of a teacher, an assistant, or a monitor.

## SCHOOL REGISTERS.

Admission and Attendance Books are now common in our schools, and are pretty well kept. To the local committees these books are exceedingly valuable, as they afford some clue to the moral and social status of the parents, and the probable benefit accruing from their labours among the children.

## NIGHT CLASS.

I have directed my attention to this matter during the past year. The cases thought necessary for inquiry were fewer than in the preceding year. The result of the inquiry, with one or two exceptions, was highly satisfactory.

## SCHOOL MATERIAL.

I am happy to report considerable progress in the matter of school material. The committees with whom I have corresponded have received my suggestions with thanks, and in most instances have promptly complied with my recommendations. I have been much pained to see the little care taken by some teachers of their sheet lessons, books, &c. The care of school property should be regarded as one part of the moral training; and a most important part it is to the class with which our schools have principally to deal, since the very poor are frequently guilty of utter wastefulness and reckless extravagance. A little gum or paste kept in the school cupboard, and applied to the corners or edges of the sheet lessons, would preserve them for months where they do not last so many days. The practice of weekly examining the school material with the aid of some of the elder children, and applying the brush or the needle where required, would impart some amusement as well as convey an excellent lesson.

Pictorial illustrations for the Infant Classes seem so obvious a want, that the wonder is to find any school unprovided with them; yet the want is very common. It is true the sets, as sold by Varty, the Tract Society, or Sunday School Union, are very expensive, but with care they will last many years. I am repeatedly urging their introduction: during the past year in several instances my efforts were successful.

## TIME-TABLES.

Most of the teachers act upon some plan in their daily operations, but very few have a written time-table. No doubt the irregularity and unpunctuality

of the children, visits of parents or others about cases of distress, &c., are great sources of interruption, and frequently interfere with the carrying out of any regular plan; but there is no doubt that a carefully devised plan, plainly written out, and hung up in the school-room, would lead to both economy of time and labour.

In some schools it is to be feared that a considerable loss of time is occasioned by the late assembling of the children. Schools differ very much in this respect. In some the bulk of the children come early; in others, late. As the few children who come early, unless kept interested by occupation, may fall into the irregular habits of the other children, I have suggested that they be at once employed in writing, copying figures or tables, or rehearsing tables, or singing. The teacher in the meantime might be preparing the black boards for the writing or arithmetical lessons. In some instances teachers do not make so much use of the black boards as is desirable. This arises in many cases from the boards not being cleaned and prepared before the commencement of the school. The time for writing and arithmetic being comparatively brief, it is very surprising that such a case should be possible as, in schools where black boards abound, that the monitor or teacher should set to twenty or thirty children a separate copy or sum; but it does occur. I have never failed when I have met with it to point out the glaring absurdity. I am happy to state that black boards are on the increase.

## OBJECT LESSONS.

In some of our schools the teachers occasionally give a lesson on some object, in order to develop the children's power of observation. Lessons in colour and form are made amusing and interesting. Lessons in tea, coffee, cotton, and sugar, are illustrated by pictures of the plant or tree, and specimens of the products. On these occasions an opportunity is afforded of introducing incidentally matters of geography or history, and in such a manner as to remain indelibly impressed on the mind. To this end it is important that a map of the world should be at hand. Where these matters are introduced judiciously, not for the purpose of cramming, but as an intellectual training, and the time restricted for their teaching, say to some half-hour a day, or every other day, reading, writing, and arithmetic would not thereby be retarded, but forwarded, as the children's minds would be aroused, their attention quickened, and their interest increased in all school matters. Especial care should be given, so that a religious turn should be given to the children's minds by drawing some lesson illustrative of the goodness and wisdom of God.

## RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE.

There has been no declension in this part of the work during the past year. The returns, as per tabulated statement, do not convey the correct impression as to the amount of religious teaching; for in many cases where the memory is not stored with a fact, the heart has been impressed by a truth.

The fear of God and love to Christ, showing their fruits in the daily life by the fear to lie, or to steal, or swear, or use unchaste expressions, is not unfrequently associated with a feeble memory for the retention of historic state-

ment. An instance came under my notice of a girl, the child of drunken parents, who was requested on one occasion to deny the mother to a person who had called for money. The mother was a furious woman. After leaving the room, the child stood for a moment, appalled by the prospect of being faithful to duty. She had her accustomed resource. Her God, who was a God at hand, and not a God afar off, in answer to her prayer, gave her strength to do the right. She made no scruple, but openly declared that her mother was at home, but had no money. The artless and confident manner of the girl disarmed the man who called of all suspicion of trick: he accordingly went away. As this was the thing desired by the mother, the girl escaped the anticipated beating. "She trusted in God, and he did deliver her." Another case was that of a poor boy, whose family was dissipated, drunken, and debauched: one or two of the female members were on the streets; others had been in prison. This boy having been some time in one of our schools, having also been brought under religious impressions, was desirous of getting away from his wretched home. The teacher, with another person, fitted him out as a shoe-black, and allowed him to live at the school-house. On one occasion he asked permission to invite some of his companions to play with him. After some brief time, the place being very quiet, the housekeeper's curiosity was excited: she crept down the stairs, and was much surprised to hear the boy give out one of the school hymns, which was sung with decorum. He afterwards knelt down, and prayed in his very simple but earnest way, beseeching God to bless his teacher and the other friend for their kindness to him, and asking also for mercy on his family. These instances are but samples of the good effected by our schools.

## EXAMINATION.

In obedience to a minute of the Committee I examined the schools under my supervision in the North and East of London.

On this the first introduction of a formal method of examination into our schools, I thought it necessary to fix the standard low. For instance, the reading was tested by the Scriptures, mostly by those of John's Gospel. Those who read without spelling were marked good; those spelling words of two or more syllables, moderate. Those spelling words of one syllable were marked bad. The infants were not examined. Number examined, 4,300: of this number 1,578 read fairly.

## WRITING.

The test for writing was for each child fairly to write its name or the word *mice*. Those who did the former were marked good. Those who did the latter were marked moderate. Those who did neither were marked bad. All the children could write more or less from copy. Examined, 4,300: number writing fairly, 1,463.

## ARITHMETIC.

The arithmetic was tested by easy sums in the first four rules. Subtraction was a difficulty even to many doing readily multiplication, division, and money. A certain class of sums in subtraction was done readily; but in

giving a sum presenting all the difficulties which could possibly occur, they looked on it as a new rule. The working of such a sum before them soon removed the mystery, and some of the quicker boys then worked them readily. Examined, 4,300: addition was done by 1,074, subtraction by 508, multiplication by 485, division by 300, addition of money by 100.

## BIBLE KNOWLEDGE.

The examination on this subject, as in the others, was individual. But here it should be observed that the almost invariable plan at examinations of public schools, even of those of the richer class, is to let any one or all reply. Such a mode of examination makes one or two children do duty for the whole class. The visitors at such examinations go away generally satisfied with the pupils' proficiency. Such a mode of examination may show the extent of the master's teaching, but does not reveal the ignorance or knowledge of the individual scholar. Had this examination been so conducted a more flattering statement would have appeared in the Report.

The course of questions had principally to do with facts; those relating to the creation, fall, and redemption of man, facts of Divine interposition as illustrated in the lives of Abraham, Moses, &c., and the leading facts in the life of our Lord. These matters have been faithfully taught, or attempted to be taught, in our schools; but understandings are feeble, memories are treacherous, and in many instances, like liquid poured from a full and wide-mouthed vessel into another of contracted neck, the greater part is spilt. So here often, from inattention to the difference of receptivity, there is much labour with small result. The truths or facts should pass from the teacher's mind as from an alembic, distilling, falling drop by drop. The great desiderata in religious teaching are condensation, apt illustration, and repetition, line upon line, here a little and there a little. Friday should be devoted to recapitulation. The lessons should be gradatory in all departments. This recapitulation, which to some extent would be an examination, and that weekly, would operate as a spur to the teacher; for his and the pupils' weak points would thereby be discovered. Examined, 4,300: fair Bible knowledge possessed by 1,463.

## WEEK NIGHT SCHOOLS.

In the East there are 19 boys', 18 girls', and 17 mixed schools; in the North, 19 boys', 17 girls', and 4 mixed. Average attendance, between 4,000 and 5,000.

Before any very marked improvement, either in the number or efficiency of our Night Schools can take place, the number of voluntary teachers must be increased.

## REFUGES AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The Refuges in my districts in connection with the Union are 3 for boys and 1 for girls in the North, and 1 for boys and 1 for girls in the East. Number of inmates, about 290. Field Lane Refuge underwent some important modifications during the past year, which has made its sanitary condition all that could be desired. Matters relating to health have been care-

fully attended to in the new building of Bryan Street. Educational and religious matters are well attended to in our Refuges. The industrial operations are wood-chopping, brush-making, carpentry, and tailoring. The girls are taught needlework, cooking, washing, and other household duties.

## SANITARY.

Many thanks are due to the ladies connected with the Sanitary Association for the interest shown by them to our poor children. Several schools in the East of London took advantage of their kind offer. The children in several schools, two afternoons per week, weather permitting, were taken to Victoria Park. Playthings were provided, and the teachers who accompanied the children were remunerated by the ladies of the above association.

In many of our schools ventilation is not yet sufficiently attended to; not from want of the means of ventilation, but for want of thought, fear of draught, or from the teacher being too closely occupied to attend to it. Many of our teachers suffer from low state of health, loss of appetite, or depression of spirits, who have the means of prevention or cure in their own hands, and fail to employ them. I should like to see a few sanitary mottoes in our rooms; such as, "PURE AIR FOR THE TEACHER;" "PURE AIR FOR THE CHILDREN;" "BAD AIR PROMOTES DRUNKENNESS;" "THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS ARE KILLED YEARLY BY BAD AIR;" "BAD AIR BREEDS FEVER;" "WILLINGLY BREATHING BAD AIR, YOU SIN AGAINST YOUR OWN BODY, ARE GUILTY OF SLOW SUICIDE," &c.

In conclusion I beg to state that my services have met with increasing acceptance; that at social meetings, occasionally on committees, and frequently at public meetings, as the representative of this Society, I have been received in the most hearty and Christianlike manner.

I have great hopes that some matters that will come under consideration at the approaching Conference may lead to the going still deeper, if possible, into the social strata, and widening out our influence, so that every ragged wanderer of our streets shall be brought under the blessed influence of the very many gracious efforts connected with the Ragged School Union. The Master's words ring along the ages, and startle the sleepers in Zion: "Lift up your eyes and behold, for the fields are already white unto the harvest: pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth more labourers into his harvest."

The Society that has undertaken to reclaim the pariahs of this great city, to civilize the Arab of the street, and refine the moral scum of this great metropolis, has, under God, renounced the idea of impossibility. Undaunted, therefore, by the coldness of doubtful friends, and undismayed by the threats of enemies, irresistibly impelled by the approving gaze of the ever-increasing cloud of illustrious witnesses, the crowns that await the faithful, and the smiles of the Master, let our cry be "Forward!" and our march onward, onward.

## STEPHEN THE YEOMAN RAGGED SCHOOL.

It might be asked, Why give such a designation as "Stephen the Yeoman" to a Ragged School? Are not such schools better named when they are known by the locality they are designed to benefit? Our answer is emphatically Yes; and this is the rule. There may, however, be circumstances which may render it desirable for some schools to be otherwise designated, or to have a double name. The school in question has two names: it is known as "Marigold Street Ragged School, Bermondsey," and it will be also known as "Stephen the Yeoman Ragged School." It is so named, first from its immediate locality, and secondly from the fact that a handsome donation of £100, from the profits of "England's Yeomen," was given by Miss Charlesworth, through the Earl of Shaftesbury, towards the erection of the building just completed. The hero of the tale, so touchingly delineated in "England's Yeomen" by the talented authoress, is "Stephen the Yeoman;" and as an expression of gratitude the school will bear his name, in addition to that of a local character. Thus there is a legitimate connection between "Stephen the Yeoman" and the Ragged School.

Our readers would be delighted to read the volume to which we refer, and from it will get a fine view of farm life. "Agriculture has long been one of the fairest features of Old England's life. The open pastures of her farms stretch boldly to the ocean's waves; while scattered over hill and valley stand the farm homesteads, each in the midst of its well-cultivated acres, brightening all the fertile land with thoughts of plenty and peace. The tale of Stephen the Yeoman rends back the curtain from the inner life of one such English farms, that its light may shine to the glory of God, and the blessing of those willing to learn by bright example. He whose hallowed career it is the chief object of the tale to portray was one whose life furnishes, in a peculiar manner, a personal test, because its advantages are few, compared to those enjoyed by numbers who, content to walk by a lower standard, yet think to reach an end as safe, if not as happy." Thus by the preface is foreshadowed the object of the book, and the character of the hero of the tale. But to our school.

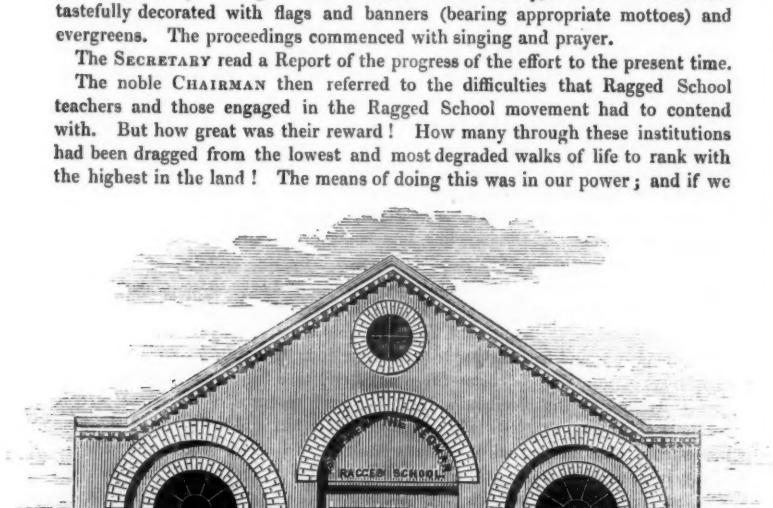
The Secretary of the Ragged School Union having been informed by Lord Shaftesbury that he held a donation of £100 for the purpose of a new school in some needy nook, conferred with the School Agent as to the locality for one. Several neighbourhoods were visited, and at last special attention was given to the eastern part of Bermondsey. Lord Shaftesbury on one occasion accompanied both these gentlemen, and perambulated the streets, courts, alleys, &c., and the result was the selection of this locality for the new School. An effort had for a time been made to get in some of the boys and girls, but was mostly limited to the Sunday evening. It was thought this might form a nucleus to begin with; and for this purpose its friends were met, and after some conference and correspondence, action was taken by securing a piece of ground for ninety-nine years, at a rental of £5 5s. per year, and upon it erecting a neat, substantial, and commodious school-room at a cost of about £300, all of which is raised except about £40. The new building will possess a frontage of thirty feet and a depth of sixty-four feet, and will accommodate three hundred children. It will be available for weekly lectures to the working classes, and there is every reason to

believe that it will be productive of great good to those whom it is designed to benefit. The accompanying woodcut gives an accurate idea of its elevation.

This building was opened by a special meeting being held in it on July 22nd, presided over by the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G. The room was tastefully decorated with flags and banners (bearing appropriate mottoes) and evergreens. The proceedings commenced with singing and prayer.

The SECRETARY read a Report of the progress of the effort to the present time.

The noble CHAIRMAN then referred to the difficulties that Ragged School teachers and those engaged in the Ragged School movement had to contend with. But how great was their reward! How many through these institutions had been dragged from the lowest and most degraded walks of life to rank with the highest in the land! The means of doing this was in our power; and if we




neglected them, how deep was the responsibility. It was a pleasing sight to see so many volunteer teachers offer themselves for the work. It was a high and holy calling. Sunday teaching was particularly valuable. They must not think because a man spoke well on a platform that he was a greater man than a Ragged School teacher. Paid teachers were necessary in some instances, and those who wholly gave their time and talents to the work should live by their labours. It was a profitable employment to the soul as well as to the body, and many had received great good to their own souls while teaching Ragged boys and girls. The noble lord added a suggestion or two which he thought might be of benefit to them. In the first place he would propose to establish in connection with the schools periodical flower-shows, at which prizes should be given; next, to establish prizes for clean rooms. There might be some opposition at first, as poor people were suspicious sometimes of allowing their rooms to be inspected; but that feeling would wear away. At a dispensary with which he was con-

nected, £25 was spent in improving the dwellings of the poor. The result was the reduction of 800 applicants for medical relief in one year. He then concluded by an earnest appeal to those engaged in the good work not to relax in the discharge of their duties, but to unite prayer with their exertions, and to be fervent in the spirit, serving the Lord. As he had other important engagements he then vacated the chair, which was taken by—

Charles Curling, Esq., J.P., who called upon the Rev. George Rose to move the first resolution:—

"That the Report be adopted, and that the list of officers be approved by the meeting." He said that years ago there were no such auxiliary societies as at present existed. The first thing that stirred him up was the Bible Society, and after that Sunday Schools were established, when the first rudiments of education were taught, such as A B C. What an alteration had taken place since then! Sometimes he looked around him in his chapel, and missed a number of his constant hearers; and at first he felt discouraged, until he found out that they were engaged in winning souls to Christ; and he hoped they would continue to be so well employed, and he also hoped that the dear young ladies would co-operate with them.

The Rev. F. Perry, in seconding the resolution, said it gave him great pleasure to come and visit those with whom he had spent four happy years; and one of the last sermons he had preached in the neighbourhood was for this school. He regarded the poor as wards in the Chancery of Heaven; and he wanted to make them wards while they were capable of being made so, in the spring-time of their life. The resolution having been put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

The Rev. R. M. Martin moved the second resolution, and said, as President of a Ragged School in the neighbourhood, he deprecated the practice of parents who could well afford to educate their children sending them to Ragged Schools, which were established for those only who could not afford to pay.

At this stage of the proceedings the Chairman said he had great pleasure in announcing that Miss Charlesworth, the lady who had so liberally contributed towards the erection of the schools, was present; and this announcement was received with the most unmistakable symptoms of satisfaction and pleasure.

Joseph Payne, Esq., in seconding the resolution, called the attention of the meeting, in his usual happy manner, to the *material* upon which the Ragged School teacher has to work, and which he described as being—

Clever and cute—Ragged and rough;
Modest and mute—Sturdy and tough;

and the machinery,

Water-tanks—Different ranks;
Penny Banks—Giving of thanks;

and the workers,

Firm, and yet kind—All of one mind,
And never behind.

They produce

Patient learners—Right round turners;
Quick discerners—Brilliant burners.

Having illustrated each of these points, he ended with his 1,887th tail-piece, as follows:—

Oh, "Stephen the Yeoman" is rightly named,
As the pride of the English land;
And "Stephen the Yeoman" afar is famed
Through the skill of a lady's hand.

Not the skill of a lady's hand alone,
But the love of a lady's heart,
It is which has made him so widely known
In every clime and part.

But what to our purpose is more to-day
Is that which we now declare;
That "Stephen the Yeoman" has helped to pay
For raising this building fair.

Intended for teaching neglected youth,
In courts and in alleys found;
Intended for spreading the word of truth,
To gladden the neighbours round.

And surely, wherever, beneath the sun,
The taught in these schools shall go,
Shall this which this lady so well has done
Their words and their actions show.

And yet *she* will say, "Though the work I've planted,
And strongly to aid it striven,
We all are but instruments in HIS hand:
To GOD be the glory given."

The Rev. W. ASTON, Tulse Hill, moved the third resolution, to the effect that the thanks of the meeting should be given to Miss Charlesworth, the Earl of Shaftesbury, and the other benefactors of the school. This was seconded by the Rev. J. C. WELLS.

THOMAS B. SMITHIES, Esq., Editor of the "British Workman," begged, in the name of Miss Charlesworth, to thank the meeting for the cordial reception she had received at their hands.

On the motion of the Rev. W. DUNCAN LONG, a vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, who made a suitable reply, and at a somewhat late hour of the evening the proceedings, which had been of an unusually interesting character throughout, closed with prayer and the benediction.

A collection was made at the doors, and added to the Building Fund, which sum, with £10 10s. received from Mrs. Stevenson, of Blackheath, on the evening previous to the meeting, and donations, &c., received in the room, from Joseph Payne, Esq., Miss Charlesworth, and through Miss Charlesworth from Mrs. West, and "Stephen's" family, together with £10 10s. received from W. H. Cox, Esq., who was present, since the evening of the meeting, brings the total amount received up to £289 14s.; leaving a balance yet to be obtained of £40, which the Committee are anxious to make up.

Miss Charlesworth supplemented her already noble liberality by presenting to the school, after the termination of the proceedings of the evening, twenty-five copies of her admirable work, "England's Yeomen," and twelve copies of the beautiful book, "Ministering Children."

## "THE FATHERLESS FINDETH MERCY."

THE following remarkable case of usefulness occurred in connection with the St. Giles's Ragged Schools and Refuges of a

### HAMPSHIRE BOY;

and it is very interesting and instructive to trace his connection with the Refuge, and the ultimate benefit derived by him through that connection, because it shows the kind providence of our gracious God, and verifies the truth of that word, "With *Thee* the fatherless findeth mercy."

The circumstances which led to the reception of this boy into the Refuge are these:—Twelve months ago this month a gentleman had an engagement to meet some friends in Kent, with whom he expected to spend a long and pleasant afternoon. He fixed the hour for taking the train at London Bridge, and left home in ample time to reach the station before the train started. He rode there, and arrived ten minutes before he expected the train would start; but on his arrival at London Bridge he found, to his disappointment and vexation, the train had been gone five minutes. He had by mistake looked at the Sunday time-table instead of the week-day.

Disappointed and vexed, he thought he would re-cross the bridge, and see whether a steam-boat would be going before the next train. He did so, but found there would not be one which would take him to his destination so soon as the next train; so he leisurely returned to go to the station, and when walking over London Bridge he saw a dirty-looking country boy sitting in one of the stone recesses of the bridge, fast asleep. He awoke him; and after ascertaining he had neither home nor friends in London, and that he had not been to bed all the previous night, he gave him the address of the Refuge, and requested him to go and apply for admission. The gentleman went on his way to the train, and felt reconciled to the disappointment he had experienced, believing it had been so ordered by Him in whom we live and move and have our being, that good might be done to the country boy.

The same afternoon the boy came to the Refuge, and was admitted. Now read the particulars of this case. He was born at B——, in Hampshire. He never knew who his father was. His mother was alive, and acting as servant to an old gentleman who was confined to his bed. She had had several children, and that is all which can be said of her in this article. The boy was brought up principally with a poor woman, and when old enough was put to one or two places at farm-houses, to mind sheep, scare crows, and such-like work. The last place he had was at a farmer's, near B——. This place he left in the spring, thinking he could better himself, and after wandering about the country he came to London, where he arrived a day or two before he was seen at London Bridge. He had no friend or acquaintance here, and it is impossible to conceive what his end would have been had he not been directed to and admitted into the Refuge. He was a quiet, simple-minded country boy, and would no doubt easily have been led into evil practices by sharp and well-trained thieves, had he fallen a prey among them. Better things, however, were in store for him. His conduct in the Refuge was good; he was much interested in religion, and those who knew him most had no doubt he became changed in mind and heart during

his stay in the Institution. He left for Canada in February last, and the good hand of God is as clearly seen in his departure as it may be traced in his admission into the Refuge. A gentleman who had resided in Canada for more than twenty years came to England last winter to see his relations once more, and about a fortnight before returning to Canada he came to the Refuge with a letter of introduction, and said he should like to take a boy with him to Canada, if there was one who knew a little about horses and farm-work. There was no boy suitable but the one here referred to. He saw the boy, and was pleased with his appearance and manners. In a few days it was all arranged that he should return with his new master to Canada. The boy's mother was traced out, and written to, and shortly before he sailed she came to London to take leave of him.

In July last a letter was received from the master, and one also came from the boy. The master says, "It is most likely that you have expected ere this to hear from me how the boy M—— gets on. I have had two reasons for not writing sooner: the first is, that I have been very much occupied; the second, I wished to give M—— an opportunity of knowing more about the country, the work, &c., than he would if I had written sooner. I am glad to be able to say that he is industrious, and willing to turn his hand to any kind of work. He says he is happy and contented." All who read this must admit that the case is a pleasing instance of the beneficial influence of the Refuge.

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# The Teachers' Column.

## A COMMENTARY FOR RAGGED SCHOOL TEACHERS.

We have much pleasure in directing the attention of Ragged School teachers to the following offer of the Religious Tract Society:—

"OFFER TO MINISTERS, TEACHERS, AND OTHERS.

"The Religious Tract Society's Commentary, in six vols. 12mo, comprises the most valuable portions of Henry and Scott, together with critical remarks from Boothroyd, Clark, Caryl, Horne, Greswell, Kennicott, Lowth, Poole, and others. It is specially adapted for those who need the aid of commentaries, but have no access to larger works. It was originally published at 32s. the set, and subsequently reduced to 24s., and has already had a large circulation. But the Committee are anxious to bring it within the reach of those classes who may find it difficult to purchase it even at its present reduced price. They therefore offer it to the clergy and other ministers of small income, to home and city missionaries, Scripture readers, schoolmasters in National and British Schools, and teachers in Sunday or RAGGED SCHOOLS, both at home and in the colonies, at *Twelve Shillings* the set; and they hope that they may thus render an important service to those who are engaged in conveying Scriptural instruction to the people.

"As it will be necessary to go to press with a special edition for this object, and it is desirable to form some idea of the numbers which may be required, applicants are requested to send in their names to the Secretary before the 31st of October.

"GEORGE HENRY DAVIS, LL.D., *Sec.*"

All who have consulted the above Commentary, a digest as it is of all recognised Commentaries, testify to its value. It not only fully discusses difficult passages, but is replete with such illustrations of eastern manners and customs as serve to throw considerable light on the sacred text. Hence we think that this Commentary would prove of great service to our teachers in the preparation of Bible lessons, and are glad that the Tract Society have offered it at so small a cost.

# Poetry.

## A REMONSTRANCE.

"Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us."—MATT. xxvi. 6, 7.

No man hath hired thee! Oh, glance around
At earth entranced by Satan's jugglery:
Mark the deep social ulcers that abound
Ere thou exclaim'st, "No man hath hired me!"

What, no one hireth thee! when dens of vice
And colleges of felons taint our land;
When even infants pay the woeful price
Of crimes to which their parents' guile trepanned.

Are there no beggar-girls within thy reach?
No outcast boys to point unto the Cross?
Are there no RAGGED SCHOOLS where thou canst teach
That godless pleasures sow eternal loss?

Oh, when thy Judge shall on the white throne sit
To scan thy life-work with unerring eye,
Think'st thou 'twill be an answer to his writ
To say, "Unhired, I did adreaming lie?

"Of self I carved a God—cared not for man
Amid the wail of the world's agony,
But in the race of folly led the van,—
Making my life one summer holiday!"

If no *man* hireth thee, thy God doth hire.
Up from thy dreams, and tend his lambs alway;
Ere night-tide bringeth thee this summons dire:
"Seed-time is past: thou must be judged this day!"

Then up betimes, and do thy Saviour's will;
Pray as he prayed; toil as he toiled for thee;
Then soon his gracious words thy soul shall thrill,
"Thy work for man I labour deemed for me!"

Q IN THE CORNER.

# Notice of Meeting.

LAMB AND FLAG, CLERKENWELL.

THE Eighteenth Annual Meeting of these schools was held in the evening of August 4th last, at the Parochial School-rooms, Amwell Street, Pentonville. Harvey Lewis, Esq., M.P., occupied the chair.

The meeting was opened by singing and prayer, after which—

The CHAIRMAN said he occupied the chair with considerable pleasure on such an occasion. He had faith in the maxim which taught that every one could do something to alleviate the misery existing in this world. London possessed many

charities, but none were of such vital importance as Ragged Schools. They might build hospitals and remedial establishments, but the Ragged School went to the very source of crime and disease with the safer cure of prevention. By properly educating the young as they grew up, they put it in their power to become useful men and women; and he was glad to see, by the Report which he held in his hand, that their religious instruction was well looked after; for he believed that all efforts for the effectual amelioration of the poor would be futile if unaided by religious principles. The Ragged Schools of Clerkenwell were established to supply the greatest want that could be felt, viz., parental care. He took a great interest in the schools whose anniversary they were celebrating, and it mattered not to him what constituency he represented: if he could do aught to aid the Ragged Schools of Clerkenwell he was most willing and happy to do it. He was glad to see his old friend and thorough Christian gentleman, the Assistant Judge, there, accompanied by his daughter, and to whom the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools were so much indebted. He would not detain them further, as the Report which was to be read, and the gentlemen who were to speak, would prove very interesting; so he would conclude by calling upon the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. J. Watts, to read the Report.

The SECRETARY then proceeded to read the Report. The Committee were convinced that the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools were situated in a very necessitous district, and were deserving the support of all who held the cause of the poor and neglected at heart. Unfortunately, the very necessities of the neighbourhood rendered it unable to entirely maintain the expenses of the schools. Of late very many of the wealthier residents had removed to the suburbs. That the schools were needed had long been admitted; and now the question was, how should they be supported? There was money enough in the Christian Church to meet all the requirements of the poor, and it would be a very good thing if a few churches would annually make a donation to the schools out of the funds intrusted to their care. The Girls' Day School was still efficiently conducted, the average attendance being 85. The Boys' School continued to give increased satisfaction, the average attendance being 105. The Infant School attendance is also 105. The average attendance at the Sunday School was 224. The Mothers' Meeting was proceeding well, and much good expected to arise from its unobtrusive labours. The Clothing Club still continued to encourage habits of thrift. The Penny Bank has been opened a year, and 221 deposits had been made, to the amount of £42 15s. 8d. A Flower Show was held in November last, when prizes had been awarded to the best growers, the profits from which were £2 7s. 8d. The Children's Treat and Bazaar had resulted in about £22 profit; and the Committee beg most sincerely to return thanks to Mr. Bodkin and his daughter for the kindness and hospitality which they had received at their hands. The Committee also returned thanks to the ladies who so generously interested themselves in the fancy bazaar which had been held, the profits of which were £22 10s. 8d. There was still £100 remaining on the building debt, and the subscriptions for this year were £200 less than last year's. The balance-sheet showed receipts of £227 11s. 5½d., the expenses, £219 12s. 7d. The Infant School Fund was, receipts, £79 6s. 4½d.; expenditure, £56 10s.

Mr. T. ATKINSON moved the adoption of the Report, and the reappointment of the Committee. The Rev. O. SHARPE seconded it.

The prizes for good conduct were then awarded, and were 25 in number—13 boys and 12 girls. Twenty-three received an illuminated prize card and 7s. 6d. in money, and two received the prize card only, as they had their 7s. 6d. on a previous year. The Chairman in two cases, and Mr. Bodkin in one, added 10s. to the usual amount, as the cases were unusually meritorious.

The meeting was afterwards addressed by the Revs. T. Nolan, C. H. Howard, B. Field; Dr. Weir, and Mr. Bodkin.

# RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

ESTABLISHED FOR THE SUPPORT OF

## FREE SCHOOLS FOR THE DESTITUTE POOR.

OFFICE—1, EXETER HALL.

PRESIDENT.—THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.
TREASURER.—R. C. L. BEVAN, Esq., Lombard Street, E.C.
HON. SEC.—MR. W. LOCKE. HON. SOLICITOR.—E. JENNINGS, Esq.
SECRETARY.—MR. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.
BANKERS.—MESSRS. BARCLAY, BEVAN, & CO., 54, Lombard Street.

The following Contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union from the 20th of July to the 19th of August, 1863.

### General Fund.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Abercorn, Marchioness | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| A. H., Salop | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Aylmer, Lieut. F. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Baker, Sir Ed., Bart. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Baker, E., Esq. | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Beever, Miss S. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Benham, F., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Brooke, R., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Buffett, Miss | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| Burton, D., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Cappelaine, J. Le, Esq. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Claypon, B., Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Collins, J., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Crawhall, Mrs. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| C. T. | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Cure, C., Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Denison, A., Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Denison, Mrs. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Dickens, Messrs., & Co. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| E. F. | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Fortescue, Earl | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Fothergill, Miss | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Friend, A, per Mrs. Uwins | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Friend, A, per Mrs. Uwins | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Gabb, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Ginger, Miss, in remembrance of her late uncle | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Gordon, Lady Duff | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Green, J., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Grain, W., Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| H. A. N. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Heathcote, J. E., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Henvaux, Mrs. S. M. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Horne, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Hunt, C., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Hunt, Miss | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Jervoise, Lieut.-Col. W. F. D. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| J. P. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Killick, Captain | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Killick, Mrs. E. J. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Killick, Miss | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Smith, Mrs. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kingston, Mr. S. C. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Lucas, J., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Morrieson, Col. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Moss Mr. W. | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Noble, R. H., Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Parkes, Rev. F. B. | 0 | 18 | 1 |
| Partridge, J., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Preston, Rev. A. M. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Pym, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| R. A. M G. | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Ranking, J., Esq. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Reade, Mrs. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Robertson, W., Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sankey, Miss | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Smythe, Mrs. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Swaine, Messrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Taylor, Legacy of the late W., Esq. | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| "The silver and the gold are the Lord's" | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas, Mrs. H. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Tite, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Toller, J., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Trustees of the late Thomas Pratt, Esq. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Uwins, Mrs. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Williams, Mr. P. | 1 | 1 | 0 |

### Excursion Fund.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen, Earl of | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Addington, Right Hon. H. U. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Arden, Hon. Miss | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Armitage, J. L., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Barclay, J. E., Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Baring, John, Esq. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Barron, Rev. J. A. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Bencroft, Mr. W. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Bevan, R. C. L., Esq. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Bodkin, Miss | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Bowman, W., Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Brettle, Thos., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Briscoe, J. I., Esq., M.P. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Brooke, J. W., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Buxton, T. F., Esq. | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Buxton, Dowager Lady | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Buxton, Travers, Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Casterton, J. W., Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Claypon, B., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Cutler, E., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dakin, Mrs. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Dalrymple, R., Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Digby, G. W., Esq. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Ducie, Earl of | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Evans, Miss | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Friend, per Miss Bodkin | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Friends, per Mrs. Reade | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Friends, per Mr. Potter | 0 | 12 | 6 |
| Frost, Miss | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Ginger, Miss | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Greatorex, J., Esq. | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Gurney, H. E., Esq. | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Haldane, A., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| H. A. N. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Hayter, W. G., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Heselridge, Lady | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Hibbert, G., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hine, W., Esq. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Holdship, J., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hope, Mrs. H. T. | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Kemble, Mrs. V. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Kinnaird, Hon. A., M.P. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Lys, Rev. J. T. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Martin, Mrs. M. K. | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Monson, Hon. Miss C. | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Morrieson, Col. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mosley, Mr. H. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Passmore, Miss | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Pollard, W., Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Raine, Miss | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Reade, Mrs. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Robertson, W., Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sale of Strawberries per Miss Dawson | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Symons, Mrs. J. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Webb, Henry, Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Whitlaw, Mrs. F. | 1 | 0 | 0 |

### School Fund, &c.

*Bacon Street Excursion.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sperling, J., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |

*Bluegate Fields.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Godwin, Mr. S. | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| M. F. | 2 | 0 | 0 |

*Castle Street.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lady, A, per Earl of Shaftesbury | 5 | 0 | 0 |

*Field Lane.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| J. H. B. | 0 | 10 | 0 |

*Lamb and Flag.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Burrowes, Mr. | 1 | 1 | 0 |

*Lant Street.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| M. F. | 2 | 0 | 0 |

*North Street.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lady, A, per Earl of Shaftesbury | 10 | 0 | 0 |

*Maida Hill.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hawkins, Miss | 1 | 0 | 0 |

*Ogle Mews.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| M. F. | 2 | 0 | 0 |

*Pell Street.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| M. F. | 2 | 0 | 0 |

*Perkins' Rents.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hawkins, Miss | 1 | 4 | 0 |

*Ragged Church & Chapel Union.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sankey, Miss | 0 | 10 | 0 |

*Rag Brigade.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Servant, A. | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| M. | 0 | 10 | 0 |

*Webber Row.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| E. H. | 0 | 5 | 0 |

ERRATUM IN LAST MONTH'S MAGAZINE.—Lewes and Allenby, £1 1s., should have been £2 2s.

# Le Sommier Elastique Portatif.

# HEAL & SON

HAVE PATENTED A METHOD OF MAKING A

## SPRING MATTRESS PORTABLE.

The great objection to the usual Spring Mattress is its being so heavy and cumbersome.

The "SOMMIER ELASTIQUE PORTATIF" is made in three separate parts, and when joined together has all the elasticity of the best Spring Mattress. As it has no stuffing of wool or horse-hair, it cannot harbour moth, to which the usual Spring Mattress is very liable; the prices, also, are much below those of the best Spring Mattresses, viz.:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 ft. wide by 6 ft. 4 in. long | . . . . | £2 | 5 0 |
| 3 ft. 6 in. „ „ | . . . . . | 2 | 10 0 |
| 4 ft. „ „ | . . . . . | 2 | 15 0 |
| 4 ft. 6 in. „ „ | . . . . . | 3 | 0 0 |
| 5 ft. „ „ | . . . . . | 3 | 5 0 |
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